

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented electronic bid method by a service provider, comprising:

registering, through a network, a user as a buyer and ~~merchandise/service~~  
merchandise items/services that the buyer wants to buy in a first database;

registering, through the network, a user as a seller and merchandise items/services  
that the seller is offering to sell in a second database;

categorizing ~~merchandise items/services of the first database~~ a plurality of buyers  
from the first database into groups based upon the merchandise items/services the plurality of  
buyers want to buy and ~~searching the number of potential buyers who want to buy~~  
~~merchandise items/services in at least a group being categorized from the first database;~~

selecting sellers from the second database who are offering to sell the merchandise  
items/services used to form the group of the plurality of buyers ~~in the same group from the~~  
~~second database~~ and providing [[a]] potential buyer information to the selected sellers, the

potential buyer information including ~~[[the]]~~ a number of buyers ~~[[for]]~~ in the ~~same~~ group of the plurality of buyers, ~~to the selected sellers~~; and

receiving selling information including a selling price of the ~~merchandise/service~~ merchandise items/services to offer from at least one of the selected sellers and providing the selling information to each ~~of buyers in the same group~~ buyer in the group of the plurality of buyers,

wherein the seller determines the selling price of the merchandise items/services based upon the potential buyer information provided to the seller.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented electronic bid method according to claim 10, wherein the potential buyer information includes a purchase request merchandise code information and a quantity but does not include a user ID for specifying a buyer.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented electronic bid method according to claim 10, further comprising notifying the seller of a purchase request quantity for each merchandise item.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented electronic bid method according to claim 10, registering the merchandise/service includes accessing a predetermined web page or via electronic mail.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented electronic bid method according to claim 10, wherein when merchandise providing information is presented by at

least one seller, the buyer checks sales conditions of the merchandise providing information and makes a sales agreement.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented electronic bid method according to claim 14, further comprising:

deleting the first database information concerning the buyer upon reception of the notification of cancellation of continued will of a purchase request from the buyer, once the sales agreement is made.

16. (Currently Amended) An electronic bid system by a service provider, comprising:  
means for registering, through a network, a user as a buyer and ~~merchandise/service~~  
merchandise items/services that the buyer wants to buy in a first database;

means for registering, through the network, a user as a seller and merchandise  
items/services that the seller is offering to sell in a second database;

means for categorizing a plurality of buyers from merchandise items/services of the  
first database into groups based upon the merchandise items/services the plurality of buyers  
want to buy and searching the number of potential buyers who want to buy merchandise  
items/services in at least a group being categorized from the first database;

means for selecting sellers from the second database who are offering to sell the  
merchandise items/services used to form the group of the plurality of buyers ~~products in the~~  
~~same group from the second database~~ and providing [[a]] potential buyer information to the  
selected sellers, the potential buyer information including [[the]] a number of buyers [[for]] in  
the same group of the plurality of buyers, to the selected sellers; and

means for receiving selling information including a selling price of the  
~~merchandise/service~~ merchandise items/services to offer from at least one of the selected

sellers and providing [[to]] the selling information to each of buyers in the ~~same~~ group of the plurality of buyers,

wherein the seller determines the selling price of the merchandise/service based upon the potential buyer information provided to the seller.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented electronic bid system according to claim 16, wherein the potential buyer information includes a purchase request merchandise code information and a quantity but does not include a user ID for specifying a buyer.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented electronic bid system according to claim 16, further comprising means for notifying the seller of a purchase request quantity for each merchandise item.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented electronic bid system according to claim 16, wherein the means for registering the ~~merchandise/service~~ merchandise items/services registers the ~~merchandise/service~~ merchandise items/services by accessing a predetermined web page or via electronic mail.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented electronic bid system according to claim 15, wherein when merchandise providing information is presented by at least one seller, the buyer checks sales conditions of the merchandise providing information and makes a sales agreement.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented electronic bid system according to claim 19, further comprising:

means for deleting the first database information concerning the buyer upon reception of the notification of cancellation of continued will of a purchase request from the buyer, once the sales agreement is made.